

Marbled Godwit on Long Island, N. Y.—On August 14, 1920, we had snipe-decoys set in a pool on the mainland marsh bordering Moriches Bay at Mastie, Long Island. It was about mid-morning, and hot, with a brisk southwest wind. A Marbled Godwit (*Limosa fedoa*) came in from the north, alighted with our decoys, where it spent about ten minutes, chiefly preening itself, a stone's toss in front of us, then took wing and went on to the south.

Its long bill was rose-pink for about the basal half, the rest seeming black; its legs were lead-gray in color. Coming in it called a single peculiar squawk or honk; alighted, and especially when other shore-birds flew by, it had an unloud, very goose-like honk.

In view of the rarity of this bird on Long Island, and the interest as to whether some of the extirpated species are again becoming less rare, the occurrence seems worth recording.—J. T. NICHOLS AND CHARLES H. ROGERS, *New York City*.

The Willet (*Catoptrophorus semipalmatus semipalmatus*) in Nova Scotia.—Dr. Spencer Trotter recorded ('Some Nova Scotia Birds,' 'The Auk,' Vol. XXI, No. 1, pp. 55-64, Jan., 1904) that not long before, presumably in the summer of 1903, he had found Willets conspicuous about the salt marshes near Barrington, Shelburne County, Nova Scotia, and that, although he had found no nests of the species, his son had there shot a fully fledged young Willet on the wing early in July.

In 1910 the 3rd edition of the A. O. U. 'Check-List' said of the Willet: "Breeds from Virginia (formerly Nova Scotia) south to Florida and the Bahamas." On what evidence it was then supposed that the Willet had ceased to breed in Nova Scotia between 1903 and 1910 I do not know.

E. Chesley Allen, in 'Annotated List of Birds of Yarmouth and Vicinity, Southwestern Nova Scotia' (Trans. N. S. Inst. of Sci., Vol. XIV, Part 1, pp. 67-95, Jan. 5, 1916) states of the Willet: "Summer resident, but more common during the fall migrations. They show all evidence of breeding in our locality, though I have not yet found nest or young. First appearance (5 years) May 4."

Finally, in a list of Migratory Birds Convention Act prosecutions, published in 'The Canadian Field-Naturalist,' Vol. XXXIV, No. 2, p. 36, Feb., 1920, it is stated that two residents of Central Argyle (Yarmouth County), Nova Scotia, had been convicted of shooting Willets.

My own experience with Nova Scotian Willets is practically confined to the lower valley of the Chebogue River, in Yarmouth County, where, on the extensive salt marshes and the neighboring upland fields and swamps, Willets are not uncommon, as I have known since 1911, if not earlier. The only Willet which I have seen elsewhere was one observed from a train window, June 25, 1913, when it was flying over the salt marshes at Pubnico Harbor, Yarmouth County, Nova Scotia.

I have occasionally searched for the nests or the young of the Willets, but without success until June 8, 1920, when I found a nest with four eggs

of this species, in an open swale in an upland pasture, about a quarter of a mile from the nearest salt marsh or salt water, at Arcadia, Yarmouth County, Nova Scotia, on the western side of the Chebogue River. The nest was near the junction of the River Road with Argyle Street, and was about 150 yards from each of those much-travelled highways, which were in full view from the nest-site. Several cattle occupied the pasture at the time when the nest was found. The swale in which the nest was placed was of considerable extent and was of the kind preferred as a breeding-place by Wilson's Snipe; in fact, a pair of those birds were evidently nesting there. The Willet's nest was a slight hollow in the damp ground, lined with a few dead rushes. It was surrounded by growing rushes, cinnamon fern, low blackberry bushes, and wild rose bushes, and was well concealed. The eggs agreed with standard descriptions of Willets' eggs. They and the nest were left undisturbed.

The sitting Willet flushed from the nest at my very feet, and in appearance and cries was of course unmistakable. So fast did it tear through the low growth around the nest that it left me, as further proof of its identity, two of its feathers, one of which is being forwarded to the Editor of 'The Auk' with this note.

On June 14, 1920, I found another Willet's nest, containing four eggs, at Cook's Beach, at the mouth of the Chebogue River. This nest was scantily lined with dry grass and "eel-grass" and was in a slight hollow on top of a dry, grassy knoll, about fifteen feet above high-tide mark, which was about fifty feet distant. The sitting bird was surrounded by short growing grass and strawberry plants, and by two or three small plants of Iris. It flushed from the nest at my feet, and by loud cries attracted its mate and its neighbors, so that I soon had the pleasure of seeing six Willets in the air together near me. I estimate that there were about a dozen pairs of Willets breeding along the Chebogue River in 1920, and the species is apparently to be considered not uncommon in suitable areas in southwestern Nova Scotia.

When scolding an intruder, Nova Scotian Willets seem to prefer to perch on the very top of some spruce or fir tree, where they appear strangely out of place. They also perch readily on buildings, telephone poles, and fences. For such large game birds they are not very shy, and I have seen one perch on top of a telephone pole close beside the road until I, riding along the road on a bicycle, was directly opposite it, when it flew.

Canada is making special efforts, under the provisions of the Migratory Birds Convention, to give the Nova Scotian Willets such effectual protection as shall result in their rapid increase in numbers.—HARRISON F. LEWIS, *Quebec, P. Q.*

The Willet in Nova Scotia.—In the last edition of the 'Check-List' of the American Ornithologists' Union, under the head of Willet (*Catoptrophorus semipalmatus semipalmatus*), it is stated that "Breeds from Virginia (formerly Nova Scotia) south to Florida and the Bahamas." I am glad to be able to state that this bird still breeds in Nova Scotia.